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## A Message From Pastor Jay

Thanksgiving and stewardship are the twin themes of Sunday's worship. It is also the last Sunday of the church year before we begin our Advent journey to Christmas. The last Sunday of the church year is known as "Reign of Christ" Sunday or "Christ the King" Sunday. The Pope instituted it in 1925 as Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini fueled the rise of nationalism. Christians were reminded they belong to another kingdom and do not put their faith and trust in earthly leaders or parties. A timely reminder in our current day.

The text is John 18:33-37. Jesus tells Pilate his kingdom is not of this world. Tom serves as worship leader. Music is provided by a flute duet with Melissa and Dawna. JJ gets ready for Thanksgiving Day.

**Our past worship services are now on the website! Click on the "past worship services" link on the opening page of the website and you will find all the services back to January of 2020! Thanks to Jim for letting us use his YouTube channel for easy access.**

WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY.

HOWEVER, WITH THE GOOD WEATHER NOW, WE ARE ABLE TO BE IN PERKINS HALL FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE WITHOUT MASKS AS YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE. WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE THE WINDOWS OPEN AND FANS CIRCULATING THE AIR IN PERKINS HALL.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Musical Guests November 21 - Melissa & Dawna**

**NOMINATIONS for 2022**

If you are interested in participating in our church management or governance here are some ways you can do so.

1. Join one of our Ministries as a worker bee
2. Offer to put your name up for nomination as "chairperson" of a Ministry and thus be that Ministry's representative to the Cabinet.
3. Offer to put your name up for nomination as Co-Moderator of the Cabinet and work with Bill to lead our church's governance.

For any of these options, please notify Pastor Jay, Melissa or Bill, giving us your name, contact info, and what it is that you'd like to do. And of course, should you have questions about the duties of the Ministries, don't hesitate to ask us.

Ministries:

- Outreach/Missions
- Call to Care
- Education
- Physical Resources
- Welcoming

A new church directory is available on our website.

Office Open by Appointment - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

## CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH

### **How It Works: Becoming a Creation Justice Church in Five Steps**

The UCC's Creation Justice Church program assists congregations in making the ministry of environmental justice an integral strand in the DNA of their faith community. A congregation can be designated as a Creation Justice Church by taking these five steps:

#### **Step One: Create or Designate a Leadership Group or Green Team**

Many green church programs place an emphasis on creating a green team. That is an appropriate step for many congregations, and the UCC offers [5 tips for starting a green team](#). In some churches, however, it might be advisable for the governing council or the social justice committee to drive the process of becoming a Creation Justice Church.

#### **Step Two: Reflect on Where You've Been and Discern Where You Can Go**

The Creation Justice Church program is not rigidly prescriptive but instead assists churches in developing creative and ambitious aspirations that are well-suited for a congregation's own particular context as it seeks to further discern its sense of call and the development of corresponding ministries. To support congregations in their own process, the Creation



Justice Church program offers guiding questions to consider along with resource pages that offer ideas for what can be done.

Before jumping into envisioning where you might go as a congregation, affirm where you have been and where you are. Early in the process, gather together your team or committee to recall the strengths of the congregation's ministries that have led you to this point. Give space as well for allowing group members to name their current passions and interests in relation to creation justice.

*Helpful Tip: Before proceeding further, have a phone or Zoom conversation with the Rev. Brooks Berndt, the UCC's Minister for Environmental Justice. Berndt reviews each submitted application and can be a helpful conversation partner during the process of becoming a Creation Justice Church. He can also link you to persons from other churches who have been through the process and are glad to serve as resources. [Email Berndt to connect.](#)*

With this foundation, embark upon a process of considering the following discernment questions and accompanying resource pages that are grouped according to "The Four Dimensions of a Creation Justice Church:"

#### 1. Theology and Worship

Resource Page: [Five Ways to Ignite Ministry with Theology and Worship](#)

Questions to Consider: How can your congregation intentionally reflect upon God in relationship to caring for creation? How can it bring theological understandings of creation care and justice into its services of worship?

#### 2. Institutional Life and Practice

Resource Page: [Five Ways to Walk the Talk](#)

Questions to Consider: How can your congregation integrate care for creation into the life and work of its ministry teams, committees, and governing council? How can your congregation embody care for creation through its building and land use policies and practices?

#### 3. Circles of Awareness and Advocacy

Resource Page: [Five Ways to Expand Your Circle of Awareness and Advocacy](#)

Questions to Consider: With particular attention to socioeconomic factors such as race, class, and global inequality, how can your congregation research and inform itself about environmental justice issues at the local, state, national, and/or global levels? How can this awareness correspond to congregational advocacy and action?

#### 4. Connections to a Broader Movement

Resource Page: [Five Ways to Connect to a Broader Movement](#)

Questions to Consider: Within the UCC, what are the ways in which your church can connect with others, whether it is through a conference task force, a UCC campground, the UCC's environmental justice newsletter, or other points of contact? Outside of the UCC, what are the ways in which your church can connect with interfaith, ecumenical, or secular partners

engaged in environmental justice work?

### **Step Three: Draft a Creation Justice Covenant**

In the UCC, the most solemn and sacred commitment one can make is that of a covenant. It marks a serious promise to God on the part of a congregation. A covenant also entails a promise among congregants to each other as they seek “to walk together in all God’s ways” (Constitution of the United Church of Christ). After a prayerful process of discernment, those who have been leading the church in seeking designation will draft a Creation Justice Covenant to be presented to either the congregation or the governing council for a vote. There are no requirements for how it is to be written but one can read [a sample covenant](#) to begin the process of generating ideas for what should be included.

### **Step Four: Vote to Adopt the Creation Justice Covenant and Become a Creation Justice Church**

The Creation Justice Covenant and the decision to become a Creation Justice Church need to be ratified by either a congregational vote or the vote of the church’s governing body. A congregational vote is recommended because it ensures greater ownership and participation on the part of the congregation as a whole.

### **Step Five: Submit an Application**

To become designated, one must simply complete this form which is based on the guiding questions listed earlier for the four dimensions of a Creation Justice Church. To submit the form:

- [Fill out and submit the application online.](#)
- [Download application.](#) The hard copy can be [emailed to the UCC Environmental Justice Program](#) or mailed to:

Environmental Justice Program  
United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Avenue East  
Cleveland, OH 44115

if you are interested in joining our group, please let Pastor Jay know.

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### **WELCOMING --GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

A list has been compiled and we already have sign ups for people contacted and/or have recently volunteered. I'm sure there are others that would like to serve in one or both capacities.

**Greeter** - Be there by 10am and say hi!!, glad you're here!!!  
Give them a bulletin.....so fun and SIMPLE

**Fellowship** - Be there by 10:15am, put the goodies out you brought and other treats from cabinets in the kitchen. Tom will have coffee, tea and/or juice out. Look in the fridge also. STAY during our fellowship time and towards the end, to gather up and put away excess and general clean up (minimal). THANK YOU !!!



Place your name on the current list started in Perkins Hall or call me  
Patty Lantrip 480-227-2170

## NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

November's Outreach Mission project is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ). CCJ has transitioned from primarily being an emergency shelter for those who are homeless. It now helps clients find permanent affordable housing. Once housing upwards of 50 clients a night, CCJ now has helped dozens of those clients into mobile homes, cottage homes, apartments and lodge style facilities. Additionally, CCJ works with other agencies to help provide rental assistance. Our pastor served as president of the board from 2017-2019

This year we completed the renovation of our Madison Ave facility. The Madison Ave location now includes our "Second Chance" thrift store, emergency shelter space, and offices for our CCJ staff.

CCJ also offers programs for job opportunities. Through our "Workers for Work" program clients have access to vehicles which have been donated. Through our "Prescott Worker's Progress Agency" program, clients are trained and employed to perform landscaping jobs throughout community.

Donation checks can be made payable to the church with the memo, CCJ. As always, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. ( Genesis12:2)

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## STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY

**As a new member of Prescott UCC, I am inviting others to join me for a book read and discussion of Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: A Celtic Guide to Listening to Our Souls and Saving the World. John Philip Newell shares the long-hidden tradition of Celtic Christianity, explaining how this earth – based spirituality can help us rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, with each other, and with the earth. Newell introduces some of Celtic Christianity's leading practitioners, both saints and pioneers of faith, whose timeless wisdom is more necessary than ever. We meet Fridays at 1:00 pm. Please send a note to the church office if interested in joining in this discussion.**  
(Lisa Barnes)

### SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

**Come in November to small group sessions with Marcus Borg. Via DVD, Borg uses plain language to explain basic faith topics for discussion by a small group meeting with him. We're thinking two opportunities each Sunday in November, one at**

9:30 – 10:15, another at 11:45 – 12:30, here at church in the  
Maggie B meeting room downstairs

Nov. 7 God

Nov. 14 Jesus

Nov. 21 Salvation

Nov. 28 Christian Community

Questions?? Contact Pete Norum at 928-776-8867 or email him  
at handle32pan@gmail.com

(We'll wear masks and 8 – 10 participating at each session will  
space ourselves safely)

## ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WILL TRANSITION TO ZOOM FAITH FORUM

Starting Saturday, November 27, the new faith forum will allow a variety of faith  
issues to be explored. During Advent, "Incarnation: Fleshing Out the Bible's  
Christmas Stories" will be explored each Saturday at 10am.

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## SUNDAY BULLETIN

### REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 21, 2021

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Now Thank We All Our God" by Johann Cruger The Ringing Bells

A Time for Children of All Ages (*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*)

(children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "Grateful" by Tom Tomaszek

\*Hymn: "We Gather Together"

New Century Hymnal #421

Litany for Thanksgiving:

Tom Macy

One: As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with  
native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful  
Provider, so we too gather on this week of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those  
gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give us.

**Many: We praise you, and we thank you, O God.**

One: We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we responsible.

Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation



and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of their God.

**Many: Let us give thanks to God for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.**

One: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.  
For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,  
For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**Many: We thank you, God.**

One: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**Many: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,**

One: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**Many: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,**

One: We thank you, God. Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; To him be praise and glory with you, O Father,  
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. (From The Book of Common Prayer, p.837)

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Confession

Tom Macy

L: Thanksgiving Day provides an opportunity for us to take stock of God's blessings, and to reflect on our response to those blessings. Let us join in prayer:

L: Our Creator, you have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us to cultivate it reverently and responsibly.

**P: When we forget our connection with all of creation: Forgive us**

L: Our Creator, you have made a world of abundance and intend for us to share so that all may have their "daily bread".

**P: When we lose the sense of hospitality and community: Forgive us**

L: Our Creator, you have sent us Jesus, the "Bread of Life" to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.

**P: When we do not respond to his justice and mercy: Forgive us**

L: Every day and all day let us celebrate your goodness.

**P: When we fail to turn to you in prayer: Forgive us**

Assurance of Pardon

Tom Macy

We have offered to God the concerns of our hearts and minds. We trust that God not only hears our prayers but in God's almighty wisdom and awareness of our needs does answer our prayers. We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gospel Lesson: John 18:33-37

Tom Macy

\*Hymn: "Great Is Your Faithfulness"

New Century Hymnal#423

Sermon: "A Hidden Reign...Until It Isn't"

Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "The Gift of Love" arr. Lloyd Larson

Trio: Melissa Gates & Dawna Hill – flutes; Brian Moore - piano

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Stewardship Minute: Co-Moderator Bill Bryant

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

\*Prayer of Dedication

Tom Macy

May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share your love with the world. To this end we dedicate our offerings and ourselves.  
Amen.

\*Hymn: "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

New Century Hymnal #422

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "I Was Glad" by John L. Bell

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## TREASURER REPORT

Income as of October 31 is \$115,808

Total expenses as of October 31 are \$121,464.

Total EXPENSE exceeds income by \$5,656.

Year-to-date income is at 95% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 83% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

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## STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Let us enter stewardship time prayerfully and with grateful hearts. Loving God, thank you for this opportunity to participate in the on-going mission of this church, your church. Help me to remember that everything I have comes from you. Open my heart and hands with generosity as I promise my support. Use my talents and financial commitments to continue your work in this church and in the world. Amen.

***RIPPLES OF GENEROSITY***

**STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!**



**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 21  
ESTIMATES OF 2022 GIVING WILL BE RECEIVED  
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A  
CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2022**

**WHAT IS A STEWARD?  
WHO IS A STEWARD?  
HOW DO I BECOME A STEWARD?**

The answers to these questions are easy: A steward is a person who, with regard to a property both physical and functional, keeps it, cares for it, watches over it. As to who is a steward, well, we're hoping YOU are, or that YOU will want to become one.

How you become a steward involves the act of you giving to our church of your time, your skills and/or your finances.

There is another question to be answered. Why give to our church? First Congregational Church occupies a unique position in Prescott. We are the only historically rooted and progressive congregation in the city that follows the way of Jesus. We are both open and affirming to all. Our sanctuary evokes historic church connections and the presence of God. The God one finds here is the One Jesus modeled for us – a God of love and grace. Many have given testimony to finding healing here from other church experiences, where God was presented as judgmental and exclusionary. Other churches have retreated to locations out of town. We have remained here on Gurley Street, downtown, easily seen, accessible and welcoming to all.

**IMMEDIATE NEED**

Another answer to why you would want to give to your church revolves around need, both yours and this Church's. You obviously have any number of personal reasons or needs that lead you into church participation here, where you find those needs met. Your church also has needs and right now those needs are financial. We are in unprecedented times. How do we create a church budget for 2022 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2022? When will we be able to fully open our church and return to worship? These questions have no immediate answers, so our church budget and your offer of financial giving are not set in stone. They are estimates. Your estimate of giving for 2022 will help us begin to understand what might be possible for the next year. So, with a thankful heart full of hope we are asking you to help us right now, to get through our 142<sup>nd</sup> year here in Prescott.

**LEGACY ANSWERS THE LONGTERM NEED**

Our church is blessed to have THE FOUNDATION as a safety net. It was formed in 1992 to manage legacy gifts from our members and friends.

**Legacy giving is not about death. It's about giving and continuing life. It's an affirming experience that celebrates the people, values, and goals that you cherish most. You don't have to be rich to make a bequest or legacy gift. With a will or legacy gift you can give the way you want to live, by making a better or sustained future for your loved ones and a lasting impact on your faith community. If you are interested in leaving a legacy to our church, or have questions or concerns, you can send a note to the church office and a member of the Foundation will contact you.**

**IT'S ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP - PLEASE BE OUR STEWARD!**

**May God bless you and our church**

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## SUPPORT THE CHURCH

Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.

Use your credit card and get some points!

Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.

Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

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United  
Church of  
Christ

T: 928-445-4555

E: [FccPrescott@gmail.com](mailto:FccPrescott@gmail.com)





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